



THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture
Seminole County Extension
407-665-5550



JULY -AUGUST- SEPTEMBER

LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Mow at 3-4 inches on standard varieties or 2 ½ inches on semi-dwarf varieties of St. Augustine grass. Never remove more than 1/3 of the size of the plant. Do not mow when soil is wet, it will cause injuries to the grass.
- **Irrigation:** Watering should complement rainfall to prevent drought stress. Apply ¾ - 1 inch of water twice a week if no rainfall occurs. Grass should receive 1 ½ - 2 inches water per week. Watering should be done only in the morning to avoid prolonged periods of wetness at night on the grass leaves.
- **Weed Control:** The best method to control weeds is through a healthy, vigorous turf. Do not apply herbicides unless grass and weeds are actively growing, not under water stress, and when temperatures are above 85 degrees F, because it can result in turf injury.
- **Fertilization:** For highly maintained lawns, use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet early in July (6.5 pounds of a fertilizer with 15% nitrogen or 10 pounds of a fertilizer containing 10% nitrogen). For low and highly maintained lawns, use 1 pound of nitrogen per 1000 square feet in September. Fertilizer should contain 30% or more of the nitrogen in the slow release form, if not, use only 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1000 square feet of turf surface. Higher rates of nitrogen encourage chinch bugs or fungal disease development.

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SUMMER 2011

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HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



Horticultural Agent Dr. Al Ferrer

Soil Testing Tests performed Mon. & Fri.
Fee \$2.00 per sample
Samples accepted Mon-Fri 8:00am- 4:00pm

Plant Clinic Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm
Bring in a sample

"Ask A Master Gardener" Call 407-665-5550
Phone Service Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events
Free Publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
IFAS ~ EXTENSION
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

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(Continued from pg 1)

- **Disease Control:** Brown areas could be caused by fungi. If damage by fungi is diagnosed, use a systemic fungicide at least two times, two weeks apart for more effective control.
- **Pest Control:** Scout for insects in yellowing areas, soapy water may help detect some types of insects, mainly chinch bugs. If pest insects are present, apply an insecticide formulated for lawn use.

CITRUS

- **Fertilization:** Recently transplanted trees should be fertilized only after new growth starts. For fruit bearing trees, the 3rd application of fertilizer should be in August. Spread the fertilizer over the area from about 2 ft. from the trunk to 3 feet past the drip line. Apply a citrus special fertilizer $\frac{1}{4}$ the total amount recommended per year (Total pounds of fertilizer per year is equal to total inches of tree trunk circumference).
- **Irrigation:** Citrus require about $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of water twice a week. If rains do not supply at least that amount of water, supplemental irrigation is necessary to supply the water needs of the tree.
- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches.

PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized four times per year. In deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use 1.5 pounds per 100 square feet of a palm special fertilizer to supply adequate amounts of magnesium and manganese so important for palm growth.
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date Palms should not be in irrigation areas designed for turf.
- **Pruning:** Palms only require removal of dead, badly damaged or diseased leaves. Make the first cut from under the leaf petiole and then make the next cut from the top to avoid tearing the bark of the palm as you cut the leaf.

Summer Vegetables & Herbs

VEGETABLES – Boniato, Calabaza, Cassava, Cherry tomato, Okra, Southern pea, Sweet potato, and Garden beans.

HERBS - Basil, Cilantro, Dill, Ginger, Oregano, Mint, Rosemary, and Thyme.

BULBS - African iris, Day lily, Gladiolus, Gloriosa lily, Rain lily and Society garlic.

FLOWERS –Ageratum, Begonia, Blue daze, Cat's whiskers, Coleus, Ginger, Impatiens, Marigold, Moon flower, Pentas, Periwinkle, Moss flower, Salvia and Zinnia.

FLORIDA YARDS & NEIGHBORHOODS PROGRAM

www.seminolecountyfl.gov/fyn

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Right Plant, Right Place | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently | 7. Recycle |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff |
| 4. Mulch | 9. Protect the Waterfront |
| 5. Attract Wildlife | |

It is an honor to be selected or even just nominated for “Yard of the Month” in many neighborhoods. A “Yard of the Month” is usually well kept, lush and green, and full of lovely color landscape. The upkeep or cultural practices, plant selection and placement are all very important. Irrigating and fertilizing properly can be a challenge during drought times or in the wet season.

Central Florida was 1.6” below the average rainfall for the month of May. The monitoring stations for groundwater and lake levels showed that there is a 10”-20” drop in the average groundwater and lake levels for May 2011. Rainfall totals through May have been monitored and there has been a total of 14” inches of rain in the Central Florida area. Many indicators show that 2011 is a drought year.

Many yards and landscapes that do not have supplemental irrigation are looking pretty dry and crunchy. It is not recommended to fertilize your plants during a drought. If the lawn is fertilized during a drought the increased nutrient levels may damage your lawn. Many neighborhoods look very green and often people need to be reminded that water restrictions allow for irrigation two days a week. Supplemental irrigation can keep your landscapes green and looking good during this drought time. Many neighborhoods designate a “Yard of the Month” to honor homeowners who have great looking landscapes, this designation during a drought may not be as prestigious as one might think.

Someone asked if a Florida-Friendly Landscape can be a yard of the month in a traditional subdivision and after some consideration the answer is yes. A landscape that’s maintenance follows the 9 Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping practices will decrease your potential pollution and water use. The 9 practices when adopted will help your sustain a healthier landscape and help protect our water ways.

When a “Yard of the Month” is selected in a neighborhood, the decision is based on looks and bling and it makes you wonder if that yard is using the 9 principles or not. During a drought if an irrigation system is set up properly and efficiently, and watered according to the UF recommendation it can be good looking and Florida-Friendly when the right plant is located in the right place. A yard that looks good usually is one that is not over watered, improperly fertilized, and full of pests during normal rainfall conditions.

To schedule a FYN program for your Homeowner Association or organization, or learn more contact Gabrielle Milch, FYN Coordinator, at 407 665-5575 or fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov.

“Ask A Master Gardener”

Q. What are self-watering planters (containers) and how do they work?

A. Containers called self watering planters exploit an ancient agriculture practice called sub-irrigation. Water is supplied to the plant from below the surface of the potting mix, thus the term “sub-irrigation”. Most self-watering planters provide a reservoir of water beneath the potting mix. The potting mix must be adequately aerated for plants to thrive, so there is frequently some means to provide an air space between the reservoir and the majority of the potting mix. Also, there must be a means for the water in the reservoir to “wick” into the potting mix from below by capillary action. This is frequently accomplished by placing a portion of the potting mix in direct contact with the water in the reservoir, though some designs use an absorbent material or cloth that transfers water from the reservoir to the potting mix. One factor that most designs have in common is that the reservoir should contain water at all times for the rate of water supply to behave as the designers intend. If allowed to run dry, the capillary action is disrupted and it takes time for the process to resume once water is added.

Q. Why are they called “self-watering”?

A. The term “self-watering” can be misleading, because the gardener must supply water to the reservoir either by hand or with an automatic irrigation system. Many models contain a fill pipe that sits in the reservoir and is the designer’s only suggested way to add water to the planter. Other models have no fill pipe, but are attached directly to a water supply with a garden hose or irrigation tubing, and the water in the reservoir is maintained at a constant level by an automatic control system such as a float valve. Some of these planters with completely automated control of the water supply are indeed “self watering” once the water system is connected, but many require periodic filling of the reservoir by the gardener. Providers still call their planters “self-watering”, even if the reservoir must be filled periodically by the gardener

Q. What are some advantages of self-watering planters?

A. They share all of the advantages offered by top-watered containers, with some additional advantages offered by the successful designs. From the plant’s perspective, as long as there is water in the reservoir there is a steady supply of water that the plant consumes at the rate it needs. Most plants seem to prefer this uninterrupted supply. From the gardener’s perspective, if the reservoir holds a meaningful amount of water, the watering schedule can be less frequent than most top watered containers require. Some of the designs that employ total automation of the water control can be left unattended indefinitely unless the automatic system fails. Also, some of the providers of self-watering planters have experimented with “one time per season” fertilizing methods that they have documented and provide with their products. This can be especially advantageous for heavy feeders such as vegetables, which can require multiple applications of fertilizer during a growing season.

Q. What are some disadvantages of self-watering planters?

A. They are generally more expensive than similar sized “regular” pots, ranging from \$30 to \$100.

“In the next issue several ways to make your own from recycled materials for \$10 or less.”



The Teaching Gardens Of Seminole County

To educate and encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

"The gardens have done nicely this spring as we head into summer. The firebush has recovered again after being cutback to ground. The Butterfly garden is receiving some new plants suitable for some of its more shady areas. Had to rein in the Asiatic jasmine in the Partial Sun and Full Shade gardens. If you are considering grass alternatives for shady or sunny areas in your yards, come and take a look at our Asiatic jasmine or perennial peanut (for sunnier areas) examples. Considering drip irrigation alternatives? We have examples of several different micro irrigation technologies suitable for your yards."

Coordinator: Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com

Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

This time of year, many of us just give up trying to grow anything in the garden. Focus on warm-weather crops like herbs and vegetables. Warm weather plants are okra, peppers, eggplant, mustard greens, and collards. And don't forget to visit the Student Museum Gardens and support keeping the STU open. During the day, tour guides from the Master Gardener Program will give tours through the teaching gardens at the museum. Sponsored by SCPS Student Museum and Orlando Area Historical Rose Society.

Coordinator: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com

Waterwise & Butterfly Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The water-wise and butterfly gardens are growing vigorously as we head into summer. The rosemary bushes have been thriving in the dry hot conditions of this past spring. Both the Firebush and Shrimp Plant have grown large and will need periodic trimming throughout the summer to maintain their shape. Yellow Bulbines, lavender Mexican Sage and orange Gallardia are blooming profusely. Both native wildflowers, yellow Rosinweed and white Beardtongue, have finished their spring showing of flowers. Butterflies and hummingbirds have arrived to enjoy the gardens in bloom.

Coordinator: Tara Bush, chevytwonova@yahoo.com

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO
Saturday, October 29, 2011 at Seminole County Extension Center
10 am to 4 pm.

For more info: www.seminolecountymastergardeners.com



Pest Alert: Concerned about Bees on Your Property

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Florida has this recommendation concerning wild bees in or around your property. It is now state recommendation that all bee colonies in and around homes be eradicated by a certified Pest Control Operator (PCO). Recent inspections in South Florida revealed that 70 - 90% of wild bee colonies are now Africanized. Approximately 50% of bee attacks are from a known wild colony that owners thought was "tame." Because eradication is now state recommendation, we *cannot* recommend beekeepers for nest removal and relocation, and we *will not* remove the bees for you. A list of certified pest control operators in your area can be found in the web site below. Remember your safety is first!

<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/plantinsp/ahb.html> At this site, scroll down to the section Featured Links and click on **Bee Nest and Swarm Removal Contact List** (The list is an excel file and at the bottom of the excel window is a tab with the list of the Counties, the arrows at the left bottom will let you scroll to your County list)



EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

Seminole County Extension

Urban Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd
Sanford FL 32773

Located across from Flea World,
17-92 & County Home Road

— — — — —
Your Community Resource For
Gardening And Landscaping
Information
— — — — —

[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/
extensionsservices/index.aspx](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionsservices/index.aspx)

Cooperative Extension Services

SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Free quarterly
Newsletter

To receive by email
aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

Newsletter Contributors:

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**Seminole County:
USDA Hardiness
Zone 9b
Amer.Hort.Soc.
Heat Zone 10**

July 14, 2011
6:30pm-8:30pm

Water Your Yard More Efficiently
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

July 16, 2011
9:30am - 11:30am

Attracting Wildlife/Butterfly Gardening
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

July 15-17, 2011
7:00am— 6:00pm

Fla. Small Farms Conference
Osceola Heritage Park Kissimmee
Regis. Before July 12 \$180.00
Mandy Stage 352-392-5930
For more details
<http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu>

August 6, 2011
9:00am-12:00pm

Planning Your 1st Vegetable Garden
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration required \$10.00
407-665-5560
info aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov

August 11, 2010
6:30pm-8:30pm

Fla. Friendly Landscaping for HOA
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration 407-665-5575 FREE!!
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

August 13, 2011
9:30am-11:30am

Aquascaping lake fronts & ponds
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration required \$10.00
407-665-5550
info fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov

August 20, 2011
9:00am-12:00pm

Planning Your 1st Vegetable Garden
Seminole County Extension
250 W. County Home Rd.
Registration required \$10.00
407-665-5560
info aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov